

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 USC §103. Claims 16-25 have been previously canceled. Claim 2 is currently cancelled. Applicants have currently amended claim 1 to more particularly point out applicants' invention.

Claim Objections

Claim 2 has been cancelled to eliminate the reference to Parylene.

35 USC §103

Claim 1, is amended to include the limitation of a polyparaxylylene layer deposited from a vapor phase. A previously discussed, polyparaxylylene is only known as a biocompatible coating and has not been used as a structural element. It is not obvious to use polyparaxylylene as a structural element because polyparaxylylene can not be purchased in a structural form, such as premade sheets. To the best of applicant's knowledge polyparaxylylene is only available in a form to be used in chemical vapor deposition or other form of thermal deposition. Parylene is only marketed by its manufacturer as a coating material. Clearly the manufacturer never intended it to be a structural element, nor has given any indication that it could be used as a structural element. Hence, applicants have added the limitation of a polyparaxylylene layer deposited from a vapor phase to more particularly point out applicant's invention.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, and the Examiner believes that a teleconference may be helpful, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (818) 833-5055 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 50-0922. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend

the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 50-0922.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Scott B. Dunbar/

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